

REMARKS

Claims 3-4 are pending in this application. By this Supplemental Amendment, claim 3 is amended.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiners Tugbang and Nguyen by the interview held November 19, 2003 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute the record of the interview.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,226,018 to Nakanishi et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

X (The applied art does not disclose an inter-row cutting section provided to be a position between adjacent ones of the rows that are to be separated and an intra-row cutting section provided to be a position between adjacent ones of the head-to-be sections in each of the rows that are to be separated, as claimed in claim 3.

Instead, Nakanishi discloses that the electrodes 5 and conductor 6 remain in the core block 1a, as shown in Figure 2, when the materials are separated. As such, the electrode is not formed in the inter-row cutting section as claimed in the claimed invention. In contrast, electrodes 5 of Nakanishi are formed away from the planes A-A (inter-row cutting section).

Accordingly, the applied art does not disclose inter-row cutting sections provided to be a position between adjacent ones of the rows that are to be separated. Further, the applied art does not disclose intra-row cutting section provided to be a position between adjacent ones of the head-to-be sections in each of the rows that are to be separated and forming the electrode in the inter-row cutting section.


Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Nakanishi is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Kevin M. McKinley
Registration No. 43,794

JAO:KMM/jfb

Date: December 4, 2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--